



CANUSDIX 2002

Ketchikan, Alaska
23-27 September 2002



Summary Report

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Background:

The annual CANUSDIX equipment training and tabletop exercise was conducted September 23-27, 2002 in Ketchikan, Alaska. The exercise included an international joint wildlife workshop, deployment of offshore / near shore oil response equipment, a logistics centered tabletop exercise, a series of mini-seminars for information exchange, and a contingency planners workshop.

A Russian Federation delegation also attended the event to observe the level of cooperation and planning that exists between the two Coast Guards, and the state, local, federal and provincial agencies.

This report is intended to summarize the proceedings of the major events.

CANUSDIX 2002 Objectives Summary:

The overall objectives were to exercise the CANUSDIX Annex to the Joint Plan, improve emergency procedures for Dixon Entrance, and expand the working relationships between all participants. Specific objectives include:

1. Provide a format for Canadian and United States response agencies and private industries to meet and increase inter-agency understanding and communications, and expand working relationships that will be critical for an efficient joint response.
2. Provide the opportunity for joint hands-on equipment training for responders.
3. Utilizing a unique tabletop simulation, exercise complicated logistics issues for a response in the Dixon Entrance Area.
4. Provide the opportunity for the Joint International Wildlife Working Group to finalize their joint plan, and exercise portions of the plan.
5. Explore the potential to develop a two year CANUSDIX “work plan” to facilitate budget and work schedule programming.
6. Review and make meaningful improvements to the Dixon Entrance Annex to the Canadian / US Response Plan.

Scenario Review:

The scenario is attached as Enclosure (2).

Table Top “Simulation”:

This year, a totally new format was unveiled and used with the scenario to illustrate on scene logistics and operational concerns. This “gaming” simulation, complete with playing board, equipment pieces, and specific rules based on real time data, provided a fresh and innovative technique to explore on scene operations. It permitted players to visually see what was available, experience time delays, and address the logistics of moving people and equipment, assemble complete skimming systems, and make decisions using available resources.



One of the benefits to this particular format was the realization that most of the responders were not familiar with the region, its sensitive areas, or shoreline types. This made it difficult to determine the feasibility for certain response techniques, and also validated the value of having Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) available. Players realized the opportunity to conduct open water skimming might be very limited due to close proximity to shorelines for many of the casualties that occur in the region. They also demonstrated the ability to move people to the scene faster than they were ready to support them with adequate berthing, food, medical, decontamination, and other required arrangements. Transporting too many people too quickly on scene may create its own logistical problems, and imposes new safety concerns. Additionally, the potential for Canada and USA to share personnel and equipment on scene became evident, and that highlighted the need for cross training on both equipment and management systems.

This format was praised for its fresh approach, but several evaluations stated a desire to expand the boundaries and tie command post planning and operations sections into the ‘play’. This is a valid idea, and will be explored.

Equipment Deployment Summary:

The following equipment was deployed, with training of personnel the main focus for the deployments. Canadian Coast Guard, Burrard Clean and State of Alaska responders were cross-trained on SEAPRO and USCG assets.

U.S. Coast Guard:

USCGC ANTHONY PETIT deployed the vessel of opportunity skimming system (VOSS), and trained on the deployment for the Lancer 25,000 gallon storage barge. This was a smooth deployment with no equipment issues noted. The ANTHONY PETIT also served as the “task force” commander for the on water operations.



SEAPRO:

SEAPRO deployed their 249-barrel Oil Response Barges (ORB) #5, #6, and #9, two workboats, and two commercial tug boats. This event was the initial deployment and training for the new ORB #9, a welcome addition to the response inventory for the region. The deployments for all three barges went extremely well, and no major issues were reported.

This deployment served as an excellent training opportunity for new personnel, and as a refresher for previously trained personnel. For more information on barges and other equipment, refer to SEAPRO's web site at www.seapro.org.



Safety:

Safety is always the top priority for any response or training activity. For this deployment, SEAPRO and the USCG provided on scene safety officers, and the USCG Auxiliary provided two dedicated safety vessels. An excellent safety plan was developed by SEAPRO, and distributed to participants. In general, we were successful in that no one was even slightly injured, but the following safety violations were noted and need to be corrected in future training:

- Personnel on the EMERALD FJORD, an observation boat, did not wear PFDs when transferring from vessel to vessel. In the future, all observers must wear PFDs when transferring between vessels and have all the required safety equipment required by the safety plan if entering a work area. The safety plan shall also address the conduct of observers in the training.
- Personnel did not sign the acknowledgement form for the safety plan. In future events where a safety plan is developed, ALL personnel must sign the plan acknowledging understanding of the requirements, and the form must be returned to the safety officer.
- A few work personnel were observed without PFDs when on deck. Local safety supervisors will ensure all personnel wear PFDs.

On Scene Communications:

No problems or issues were reported. CH 81A was the main channel for communication to and from the task force leader. SEAPRO "Team Leader" was responsible to make consolidated reports to the task

force commander, and to disseminate information back to all SEAPRO assets using the pre-identified dedicated SEAPRO channels. This prevented channel clutter and speeded the flow of information.

Wildlife Workshop Debrief:

Canadian and U.S. wildlife resource agencies meet in separate meetings to continue development of the joint international wildlife response agreement. The plan is in the final review stages, and is the 1st agreement of its kind and continues to gain support for extension to all regions covered under the Joint Plan.

The working group inspected potential wildlife response centers in Ketchikan, held a wildlife table top exercise to test portions of the plan, and provided an excellent seminar on wildlife rehabilitation presented by Curt Clumpner of the International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC).

Mini-Seminars:

In order to present updates and information on several subjects, a series of mini-seminars was presented on the following subjects.

<u>Subject:</u>	<u>Key Note Speaker:</u>
Marine Insurance:	Mr. Joseph Johnston, Davies-Barry Insurance Ketchikan
Mutual Aid	Mr. Dave Owings – SEAPRO General Manager
Geographic Response Strategies	Mr. Dave Eley – Cape Decision International
Historic Properties Protection	Ms. Pamela Bergmann – Dept. of Interior

The success of this format was directly linked to the skill and knowledge of the keynote speakers. All the speakers were outstanding subject matter experts. Their talks were on target and highly informative.

Evaluations for these sessions were very positive, and recommended that this format be continued to discuss relevant subjects. It provided a comfortable format to receive a large amount of information in a short period. The variety of speakers kept it interesting and lively.

Contingency Planners Meeting:

Planners from USCG District 13 and District 17 and from Canadian Coast Guard Pacific and Northern Regions met with the goal of establishing a standard format for the CANSDIX and CANUSNORTH Annexes to the Joint US / Canada Response Plan.

The group met its main objective and agreed on a standard format and wording. Final revisions to the plans are expected by the end of the year. Goal is to have a final ready for signature at the International Oil Spill Convention (IOSC) in Vancouver. A copy of the plan will be posted on the web when completed with access via a link from both Canadian Coast Guard and District 17 web sites.

Debrief:

A new debrief process was attempted. Rather than a formal debrief at the end, participants were requested to complete an evaluation form, and provide specific comments and recommendations to improve this training. Only a handful of forms were returned. However, the forms returned were well documented and provided some useful comments.

Subjects recommended for future training included:

- Decontamination training
- More on water activity: coordinate off shore, near shore, and on shore cleanup.
- Focused objective exercises for planning and operations sections.
- NOAA overview of spills
- Scope out and detail cross boundary issues.
- OSHA presentations
- Develop a full ICS drill
- Add ICS to the table top format
- Test Lincoln Channel GRS
- Dispersant use in international response
- Continuation of oiled wildlife issues
- Field exercise with communications
- Disposal issues
- Expand shoreline surveys for areas likely to be impacted

Future Exercise Recommendations:

The Canadian and US Coast Guards are developing a two-year work plan for CANUSDIX activities. Future exercises will be included in this document. The work plan is scheduled for completion in early 2003, and will be formalized by signatures at the IOSC in April 2003.

For 2003, we are currently planning to conduct field deployment for booming strategies. The GRS for Lincoln Channel will be tested along with similar strategies for Canadian sensitive areas.

Distribution:

All Participants via E-mail.

Enclosures:

Enclosure (1):	Work List Items
Enclosure (2):	Scenario
Enclosure (3):	Participant List

CANUSDIX 2002 After Action Report

Work List Items]	Coordinator(s)	Due Date	Status	Completed Date
Complete development of two-year work plan for CANUSDIX Activities. Ready for signature for IOSC in April 2003.	Rick Janelle Brian Hennessey	01/01/2003		
Complete Revisions to the CANUSDIX Annex.	John Ehrhart (USCG) & Bill Dutrizac (CCG)	01/01/2003		
Develop and include in the CANUSDIX ANNEX a standard format for invocation, acknowledgement, and revocation of the Joint Plan.	John Ehrhart (USCG) & Bill Dutrizac (CCG)	01/01/2003		
Contingency Planners shall work towards development of a risk and threat assessment section for plan. This information will be used to develop response planning strategies for the region	John Ehrhart (USCG) & Bill Dutrizac (CCG)	01/01/2004		
The international wildlife working group continue to work towards completion and distribution of the International Joint Wildlife Plan	Pamela Bergmann	TBD		
Complete work list items from 2000-2002	Rick Janelle			